(c) A Task Force headed by Secretary (Health & Family Welfare) and officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in medical field has been constituted for promoting healthcare tourism in the country.

Security of Foreign Tourists

605. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to review the safety and security of foreign visitors in view of rise in number of rape and molestation cases across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to direct the State Government to ensure their proper safety;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the recent incidents of rape and molestation of foreign visitors have affected the growth of tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Following recent reports in the media regarding harassment and misbehaviour with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the isue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. During this meeting the feasibility of deploying the ex-servicemen as Tourist Wardens in States and Union Territories was also discussed. It was emphasised that ensuring the safety and security tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same.

(e) The foreign tourist arrival for the month of January 2008 has shown an increase of 9.9% over the same period of 2007.

India's Share in Global Tourists Flow

606. DR. PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) India's share in Global tourist inflow and foreign exchange earnings;

(b) the number of foreign tourists who visited India, during the last three years, gender-wise;

(c) the details of criminal incidents against foreign women tourists, during 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, State-wise;

(d) the FIRs registered andtheir disposal;

(e) the adverse impact of such incident on safety scenario of "Incredible India" ; and

(f) the steps initiated to beef up security cover for tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) India's share in the world's international tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 2006 was 0.52% and 1.21% respectively.

(b) The gender-wise break-up of number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2004, 2005 and 2006, is given below:—

(In Million)

Year	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Not Reported	
2004	1.90	1.17	0.39	3.46
2005	2.06	1.30	0.56	3.92
2006	2.54	1.61	0.30	4.45

(c) to (f) "Public order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including cases relating to criminal incidents against foreign women tourists, is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Government of India has been issuing guidelines from time to time to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crime against vulnerable sections including women and children.

Eco-Tourism in Orissa

607. MS.PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Chandaka Dampara Sanctuary in Orisa has potential for eco-tourism;

(b) whether the State Government proposes to exploit this potential with development of nature trails, trekking facilities, watch towers and by revamping of picnic spots etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State both physically and financially to execute this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The development and promotionof tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territories themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories for grant of Central financial assistance every year under the following schemes;

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits

(ii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iii) Fairs and festivals/Events

(iv) Information Technology

Proposals which are complete in all respect as per scheme guidelines are processed on